
Town of Portland Water and Sewer Commission

November 13, 2023, Regular Meeting

Buck Foreman Community Center – Second Floor

265 Main Street, Portland, CT

Members Present: Jim Nursick, Chairman Jim Tripp, Dave Kuzminski, Dick Cote, Jim McCabe

Absent:

Also Present: Ryan O’Halpin, Public Works Director

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Jim Tripp called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Community Center.

2. **Review & Approve Minutes of October 16, 2023, Regular Meeting**

Chairman Jim Tripp entertained motions to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2023, meeting. A motion was made by Dick Cote, seconded by Jim McCabe to approve the minutes. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

3. **Correspondence and Communication:** None

4. **Report from Director**

Ryan O’Halpin stated that the well was off but was turned on October 7 to make sure everything was functioning. Usage from MDC was 19 million gallons, \$98,668.92. The town is on track to achieve the minimum required to satisfy the contract.

PFAS regulations: Ryan O’Halpin cited an article from USA Today that reported many communities have PFAS in water supplies, which includes Portland. The EPA test results, from March and August, indicate small amounts of PFHxA and PFPeA compounds. The tests from last July were all non-detect. This is stated to be 20 percent over acceptable standards on the PFAS map but the article states the following: “The health impacts of the two detected PFAS compounds, PFHxA and PFPeA, are currently unknown and they are not included in the EPA’s proposed regulation,” wrote Lyn Riggins, WSSC Water spokesperson, in an emailed statement. “At this time, we have no information that suggests a concern related to these compounds.” Lawsuits against 3M and Dupont are pending, but the town will opt out due an absence of the compounds cited in the lawsuit in the town water and the absence of PFAS compounds in MDC’s water supply.

a. Development of an Alternate Water Source: Ryan O’Halpin has an appointment scheduled with GZA and Hazen and Sawyer (engineering firm) to help answer questions to develop the final engineering report on 11/16/23.

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b. Maintenance:

i. Water System

- Hilltop Drive is hooked up and all old lines have been abandoned. Milling of the road is done, paving will be done on November 20.
- Perry Avenue services are complete. New meters will be installed on Perry Avenue and Hilltop Drive.
- Russell Avenue bids have been received. The bids were higher than expected. A public hearing will be held on November 21 at 6:50 p.m., to allocate more ARP funds and to use town aid road funding on the road reconstruction portion of Russell Ave to complete the water and sewer projects.
- High Street project estimates are expected from Jacobson.
- From April to June, non-revenue water was 38 percent. It went down to under 30 percent from July to September. New pipe installation will help to avoid leaks and keep non-revenue water percentage low.

ii. Sewer System: The clarifier upgrades are still in progress. The clarifier has been power washed and prepped for coating (which is expected within the new few weeks). The pump station project can be done over the winter.

c. Meter Updates, Budget Rates: Ryan O’Halpin noted that new meters are being installed and the town is continuing to work with Stiles to get software up to speed. The budget is expected to be in the black and approximately half of the debt has been eliminated. Final audit numbers are not available yet.

5. **Committee Reports/General Discussion:** Chairman Jim Tripp discussed the meeting schedule for 2024 and presented a list of proposed dates. The options are to revert to the first Monday schedule or stay with the second Monday schedule. He entertained a motion to continue the meetings on the second Monday of the month, with exceptions as needed. The October 2024 meeting will be held on October 21. The November 2024 meeting will be held on November 18. A motion to accept the schedule as proposed was made by Dick Cote. Second by Jim Nursick. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

6. **Public Comment:** None

7. Adjournment

Dick Cote made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim McCabe. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7: 45 m.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Jon D’Arpino
Board Clerk